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1. (amended) A method for quantitating hTERT mRNA in a human sample, wherein said method comprises:

(a) contacting RNA from said sample with amplification reagents comprising a pair of primers, wherein said pair of primers consists of a first primer that is SYC1076 (SEQ ID NO: 2) or SYC1118 (SEQ ID NO: 5) and a second primer that is SYC1097 (SEQ ID NO: 4);

(b) carrying out an amplification reaction;

(c) measuring the generation of amplification products; and

(d) determining the quantity of hTERT mRNA in said sample from the results obtained in step (c).

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6. (amended) A method of Claim 3, wherein step (c) is carried out using a probe that is complementary or substantially complementary to said amplification products.

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8. (amended) A method for quantitating telomerase activity in a human sample, wherein said method comprises:

(a) quantitating hTERT mRNA in said sample using the method of Claim 1;

and

(b) quantitating telomerase activity in said sample from the result obtained in step (a).

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10. (amended) A method for quantitating telomerase activity in a human sample, wherein said method comprises:

(a) quantitating hTERT mRNA in said sample using the method of Claim 3;

and

(b) quantitating telomerase activity in said sample from the result obtained in step (a).

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12. (amended) A method for quantitating telomerase activity in a human sample, wherein said method comprises:

- (a) quantitating hTERT mRNA in said sample using the method of Claim 5;
and
(b) quantitating telomerase activity in said sample from the result obtained in step (a).

13. (amended) A method for quantitating telomerase activity in a human sample, wherein said method comprises:

- (a) quantitating hTERT mRNA in said sample using the method of Claim 6;
and
(b) quantitating telomerase activity in said sample from the result obtained in step (a).

14. (amended) A method for quantitating telomerase activity in a human sample, wherein said method comprises:

- (a) quantitating hTERT mRNA in said sample using the method of Claim 7;
and
(b) quantitating telomerase activity in said sample from the result obtained in step (a).
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